THE HUMAN FLY™

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THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!

THE HUMAN FLY

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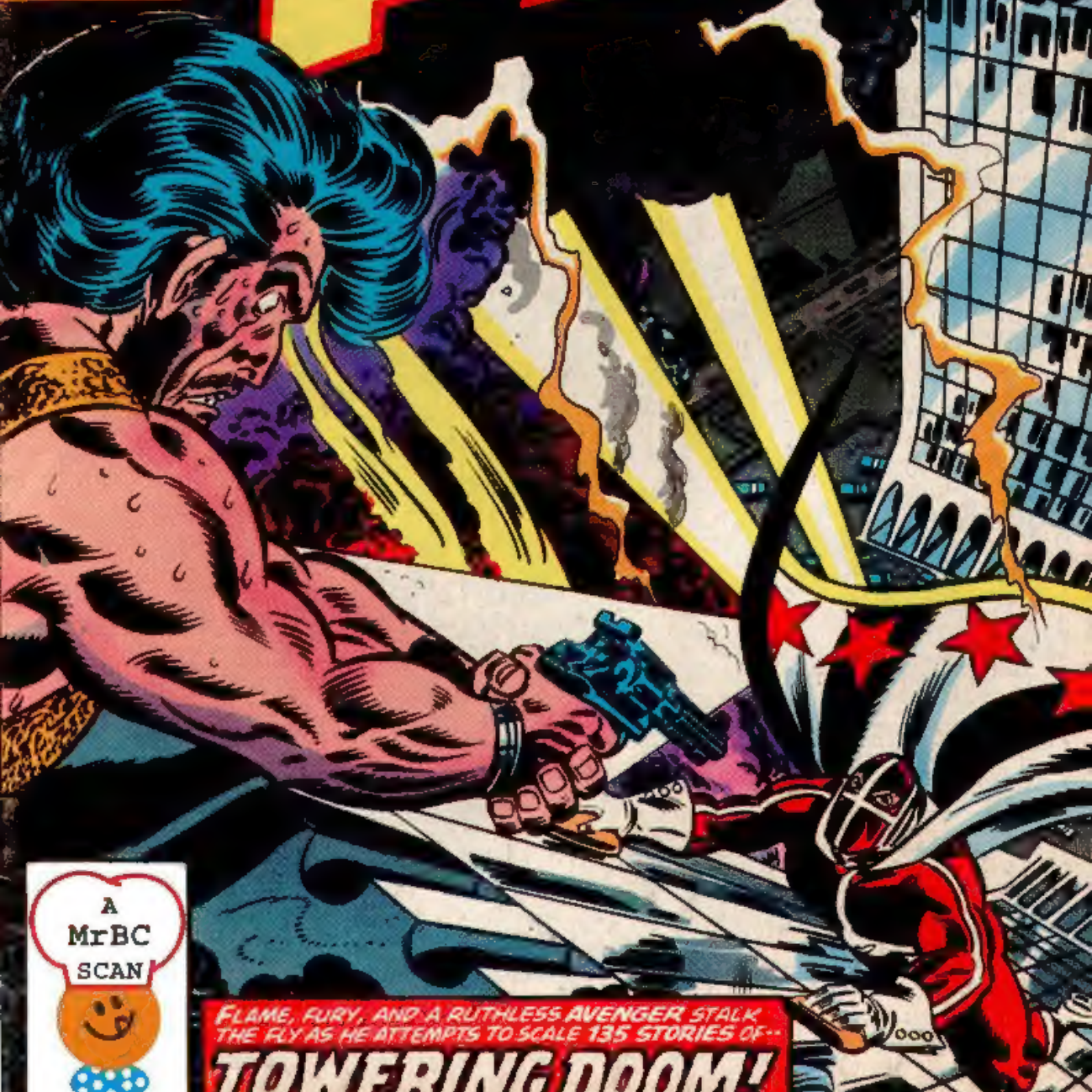

FLAME, FURY, AND A RUTHLESS AVENGER STALK THE FLY AS HE ATTEMPTS TO SCALE 135 STORIES OF--

TOWERING DOOM!

A MrBC SCAN

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!

BILL MANTLO WRITER * FRANK ROBBINS ARTIST * ROD SANTIAGO INKER * JAN COHEN COLORS JOE ROSEN LETTERS * ARCHIE GOODWIN EDITOR

FIRE IN THE NIGHT!
QUEBEC, CANADA!
THE BUILDING BURNS LIKE A TORCH, THE FLAMES A BEACON AGAINST THE EVENING SKY, THE SMOKE A SHROUD TO BLOCK THE STARS!
TO APPROACH THIS INFERNO IS SUICIDE, BUT GET THROUGH IT HE MUST--
--FOR LIVES THERE ARE IN THE BALANCE... AND HE IS THE HUMAN FLY!

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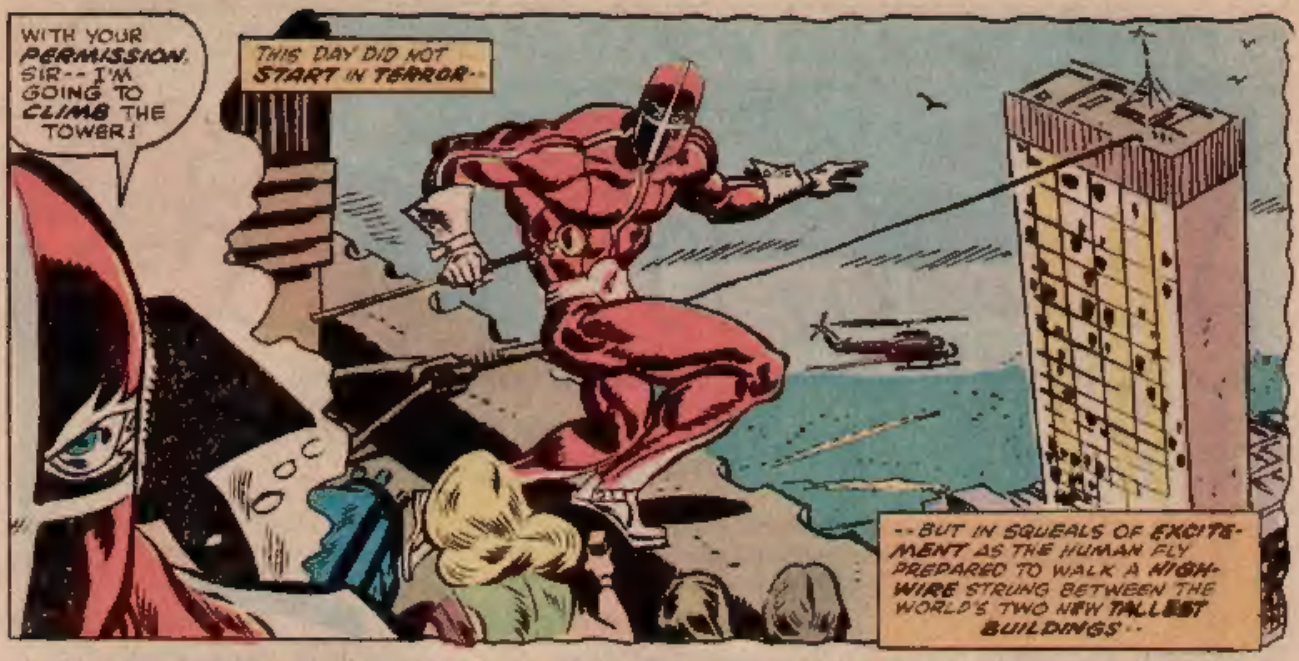
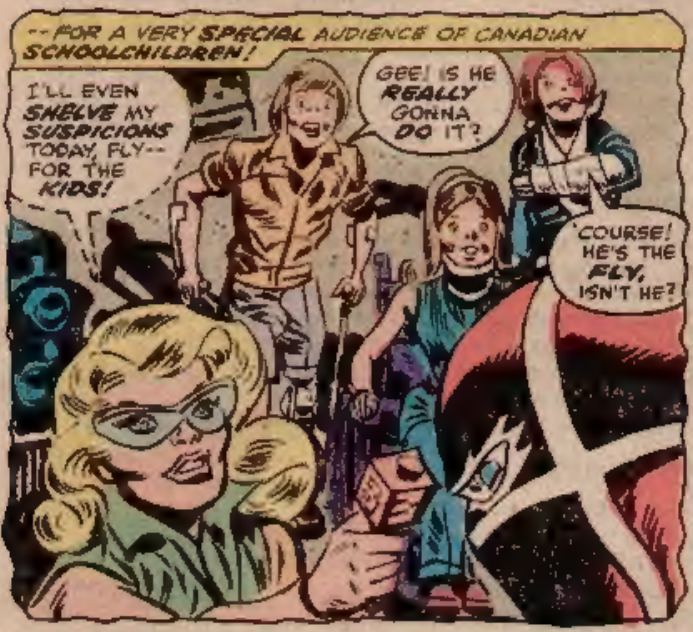
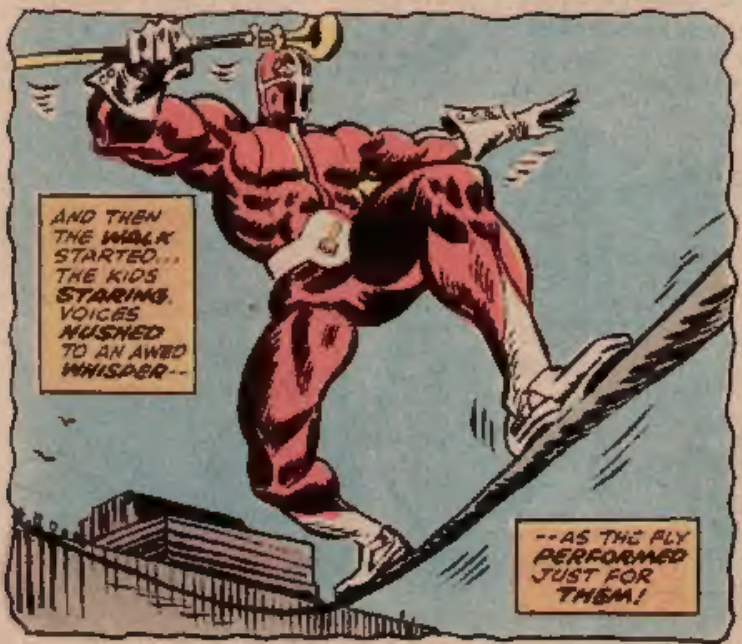
THE HEAT'S INCREDIBLE--EVEN AT THIS DISTANCE!
THE UP-DRAFT IS BUCKING THE CHOPPER! WE'VE GOT TO PULL BACK!
ALL IT'LL TAKE IS ONE SPARK TO IGNITE THE FUEL-TANK AND...
ALL RIGHT, I'VE SEEN WHAT I HAD TO! THE KIDS ARE STILL ON THE ROOF--ALIVE!
PULL AWAY, BLAZE! WE CAN'T REACH THEM WITH THE CHOPPER!
LAND AND WE'LL TRY SOMETHING ELSE!
WITH AN EXPERT HAND, BLAZE KENDALL SETS THE CHOPPER DOWN ON THE CROWDED PLAZA BELOW...
LORD!
MY BABY'S UP THERE! MY BABY!
CAN'T ANYONE DO SOMETHING? DO WE JUST WATCH THEM DIE??
WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN, MONSIEUR!
DID YOU GET THE O.K., ARNIE?
CHECK, FLY--BUT THEY'RE SKEPTICAL!
SKEPTICAL IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT! THEY THINK THE FLY'S NUTS!
YOUR AGENT TELLS ME YOU HAVE A PLAN TO SAVE THE CHILDREN, M'SIEU?
ALL OF OUR EFFORTS TO REACH THEM HAVE FAILED! FIRE RAGES OUT OF CONTROL! WE HAVE NO TIME FOR GAMES, MON AMI!
THIS IS NO GAME, INSPECTOR!
THE FIRES DROPPED THE EMERGENCY DOORS INSIDE THE TOWER! BY THE TIME YOUR MEN CUT THROUGH--
--THE FIRE WILL HAVE ENGULFED THE ROOF! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS FROM THE OUTSIDE!


WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SIR-- I'M GOING TO CLIMB THE TOWER!
THIS DAY DID NOT START IN TERROR--
--BUT IN SQUEALS OF EXCITEMENT AS THE HUMAN FLY PREPARED TO WALK A HIGH-WIRE STRUNG BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO NEW TALLEST BUILDINGS--


--FOR A VERY SPECIAL AUDIENCE OF CANADIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN!
I'LL EVEN SHELVE MY SUSPICIONS TODAY, FLY-- FOR THE KIDS!
GEE! IS HE REALLY GONNA DO IT?
'COURSE! HE'S THE FLY, ISN'T HE?

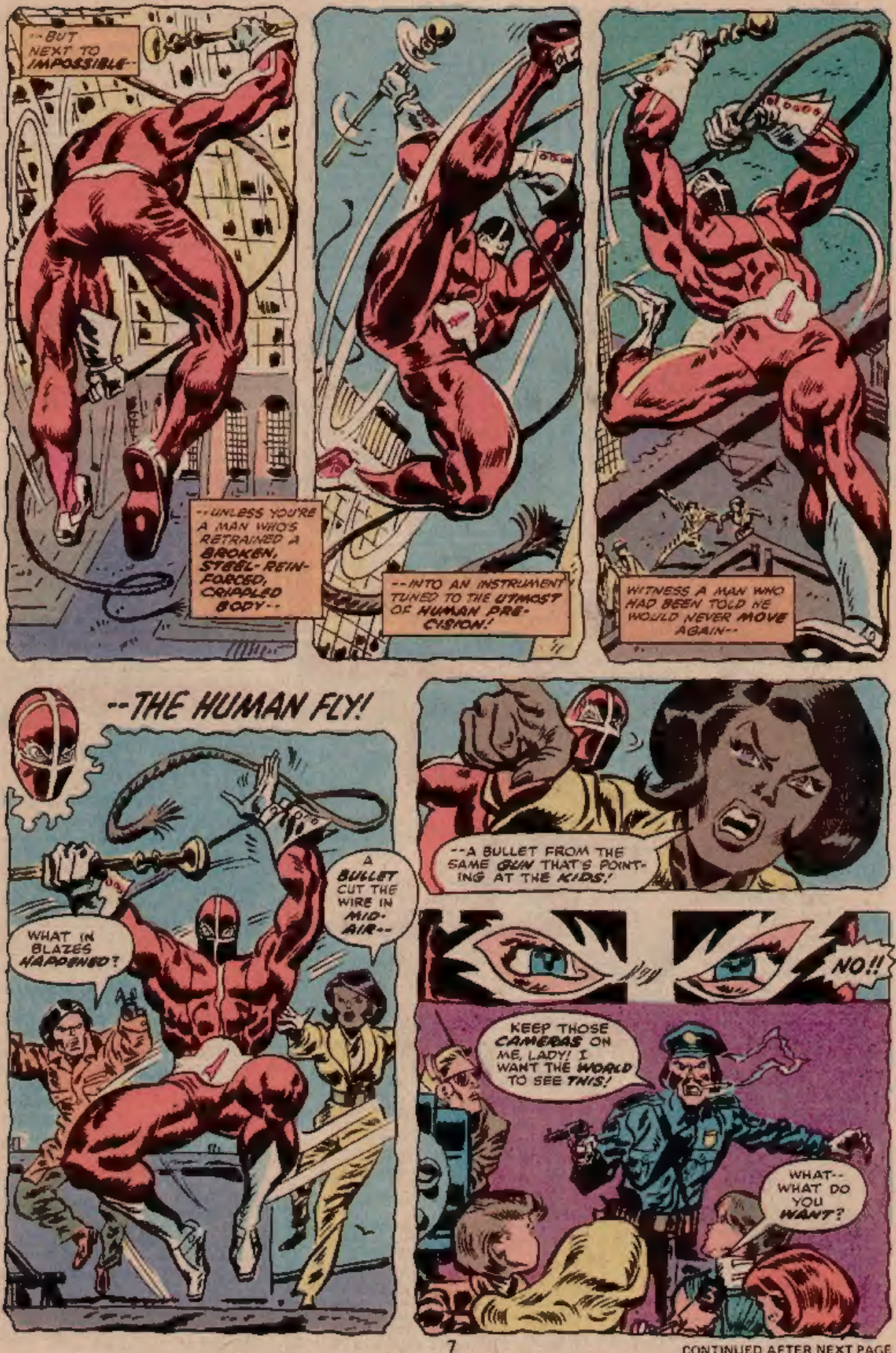
AND, ON THE OPPOSITE TOWER...
THE WIRE'S SECURE! SIGNAL THE FLY, BLAZE-- THE 'GO' SIGNAL!
Y'KNOW SOMETHING, TED? I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS CALM, QUIET LIFE!



AND FOR ONE OTHER...
EVERYTHING'S READY! I GOT RID OF TOWER SECURITY WITH A FALSE ALARM DOWN ON THE FIRST FLOOR!
THE ELEVATOR HAS BEEN SHORT-CIRCUITED!
NOW, MASKED MAN-- IT'S MY SHOW!

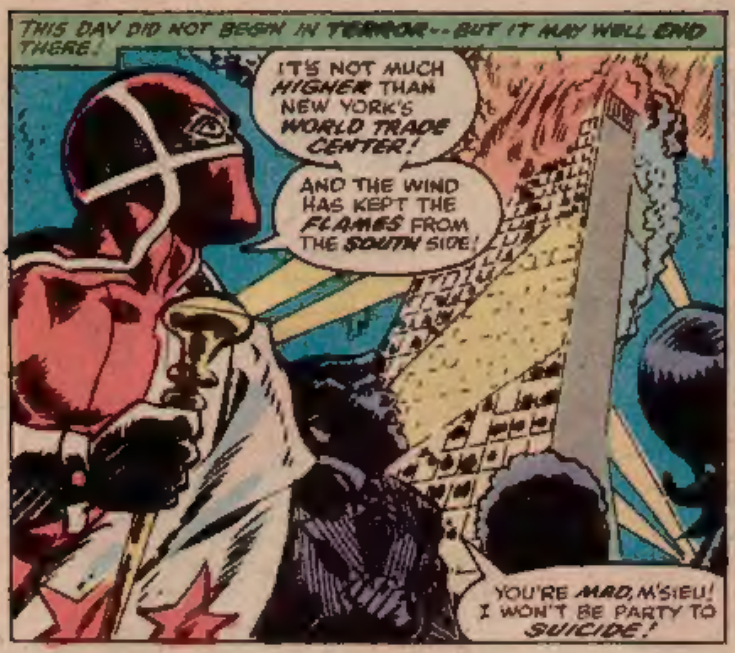
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

KIDS FOR WHOM WALKING WAS A HARDSHIP WATCHED AS ONE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN AS HANDICAPPED AS THEY--
--CROSSED THE SKY ON A SLENDER WIRE... NOT FOR PROFIT AND NOT OUT OF PITY!
MAYBE SOMEDAY I CAN DO THAT, TOO!
HE'S...PUTTING LIFE BACK INTO THESE KIDS! HOPE!
BUT, AS THE FLY REACHED THE MIDWAY POINT...
HE'LL NOT FINISH HIS WALK! I WON'T BE ROBBED OF MY GLORY!
KRAK!
DIE, FLY!
NO! WHAT IN GOD'S NAME DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
"--DOING??"
WHAT IN--?
GOOD LORD!
THE WIRE, FLY-- GRAB THE WIRE!
BEEOW
EXCELLENT ADVICE, TED--


--BUT NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE--
--UNLESS YOU'RE A MAN WHO'S RETRAINED A BROKEN, STEEL-REINFORCED, CRIPPLED BODY--
--INTO AN INSTRUMENT TUNED TO THE UTMOST OF HUMAN PRECISION!
WITNESS A MAN WHO HAD BEEN TOLD HE WOULD NEVER MOVE AGAIN--
--THE HUMAN FLY!
WHAT IN BLAZES HAPPENED?
A BULLET CUT THE WIRE IN MID-AIR--
--A BULLET FROM THE SAME GUN THAT'S POINTING AT THE KIDS!
NO!!
KEEP THOSE CAMERAS ON ME, LADY! I WANT THE WORLD TO SEE THIS!
WHAT--WHAT DO YOU WANT?

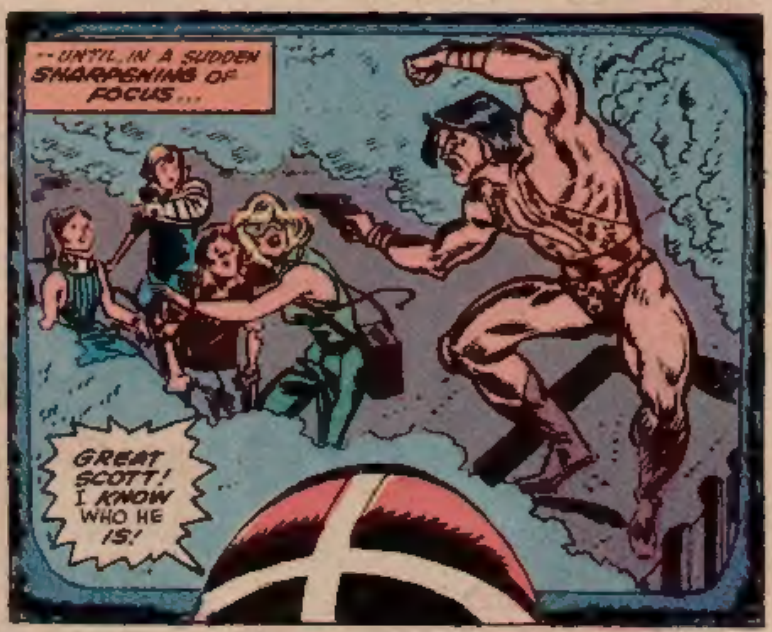
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

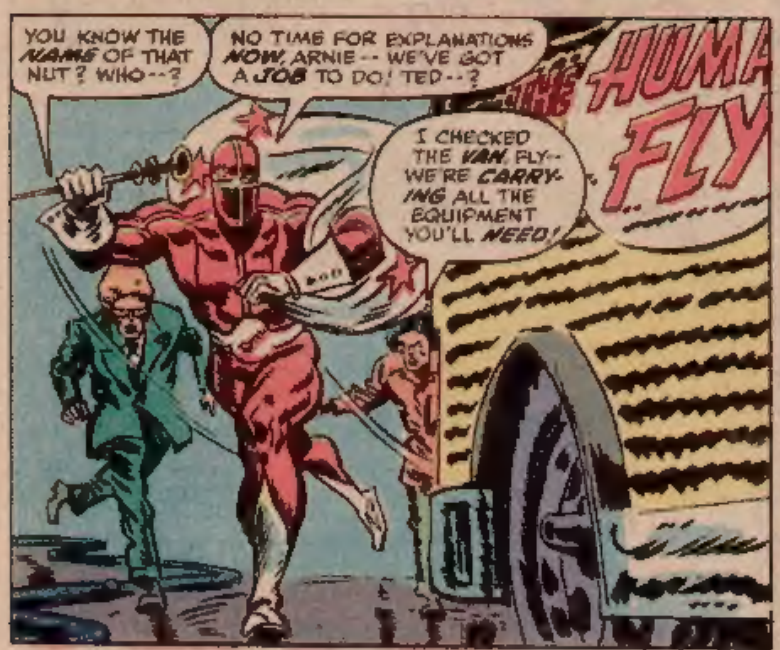
THE BIG BAD MAN WANTS THE GLORY OF THREATENING HELPLESS KIDS ON T.V., HARMONY--
--BUT HE'LL GET IT ONLY OVER MY DEAD BODY!
THAT MAY BE MORE EASILY ARRANGED THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE, FOOL!
WOK
UNNH!
HE'S GONNA LIVE-- AS LONG AS THE REST OF US!
--WHILE THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE DRAWN TO US LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME!
I'VE SOAKED THE TOP FIVE FLOORS WITH GASOLINE-- CUT OFF THE SPRINKLER-SYSTEM!
GAS
THEY'LL WATCH IN HORROR-- WONDERING WHO I AM, WHAT I WANT... AS WE BLAZE TO DE-STRUCTION--
WE'RE GONNA DIE UP HERE-- ALL OF US--
--LIKE A FIRE IN THE NIGHT!


THIS DAY DID NOT BEGIN IN TERROR--BUT IT MAY WELL END THERE!
IT'S NOT MUCH HIGHER THAN NEW YORK'S WORLD TRADE CENTER!
AND THE WIND HAS KEPT THE FLAMES FROM THE SOUTH SIDE!
YOU'RE MAD, M'SIEU! I WON'T BE PARTY TO SUICIDE!

"INSPECTOR, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE! SOON THE HEAT OR THE SMOKE WILL GET TO THOSE KIDS! LOOK THE OTHER WAY IF YOU WANT--"
WEST

--BUT I'M GOING TO GET THEM OFF THERE!
INSPECTOR--WE'RE PICKING UP TRANSMISSIONS FROM HARMONY'S CAMERAS NOW! WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR MADMAN?
THE CANADIAN INSPECTOR AND THE HUMAN FLY STARE AS SMOKE AND STATIC CONFUSES THE IMAGE ON THE MONITORS




YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THAT NUT? WHO--?
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS NOW, ARNIE -- WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO! TED--?
I CHECKED THE VAN, FLY-- WE'RE CARRYING ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU'LL NEED!
HUMA FLY

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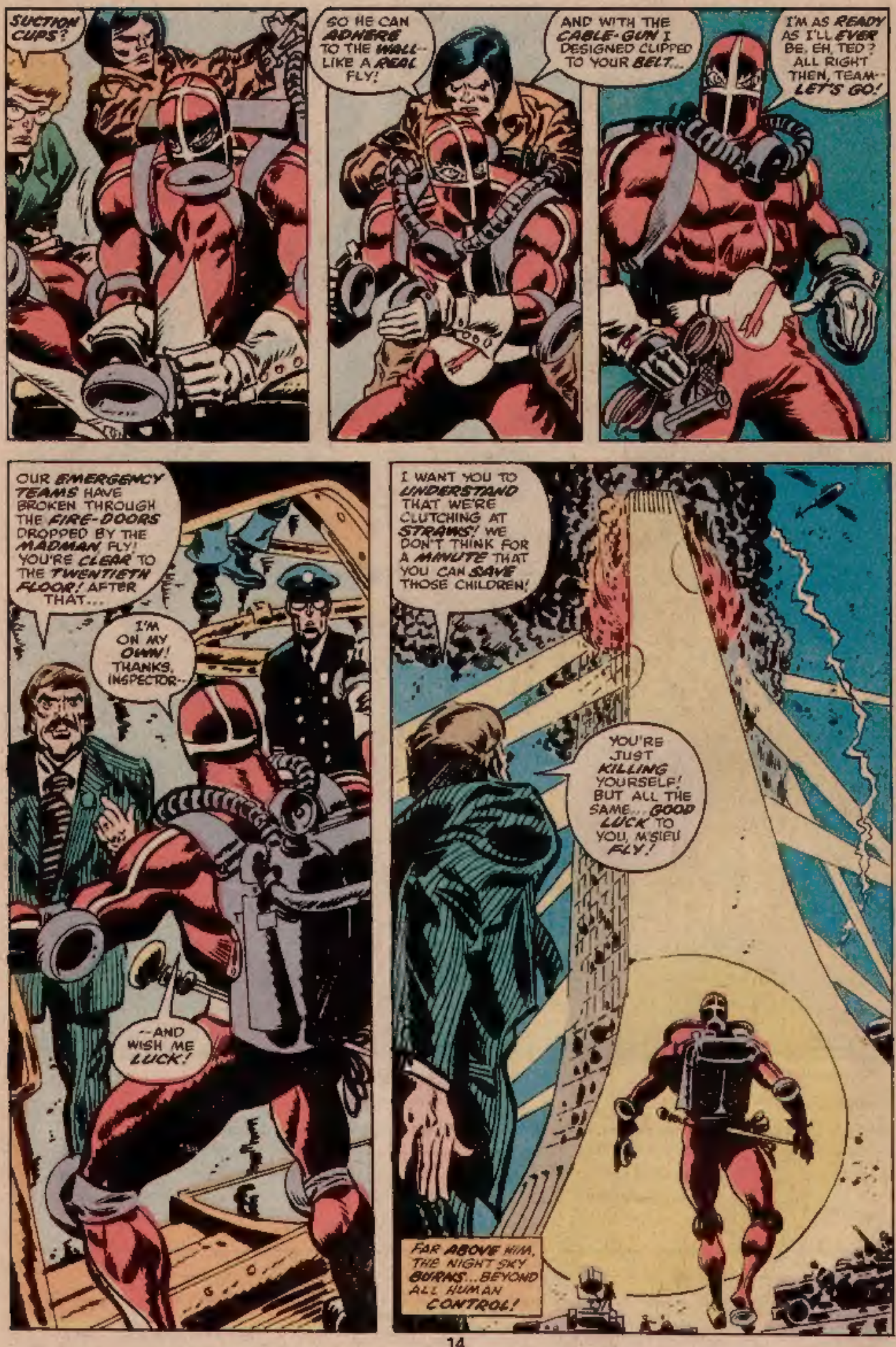
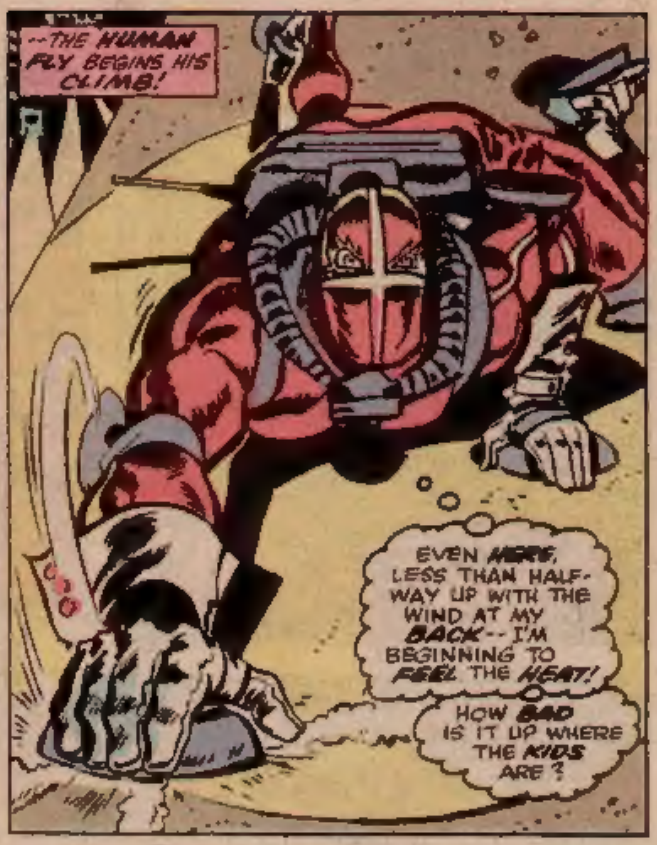
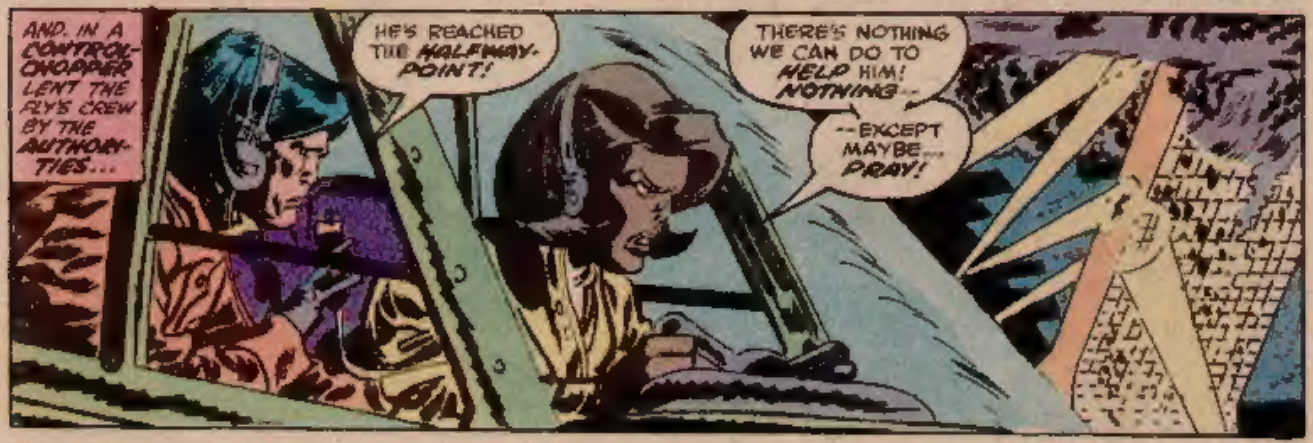
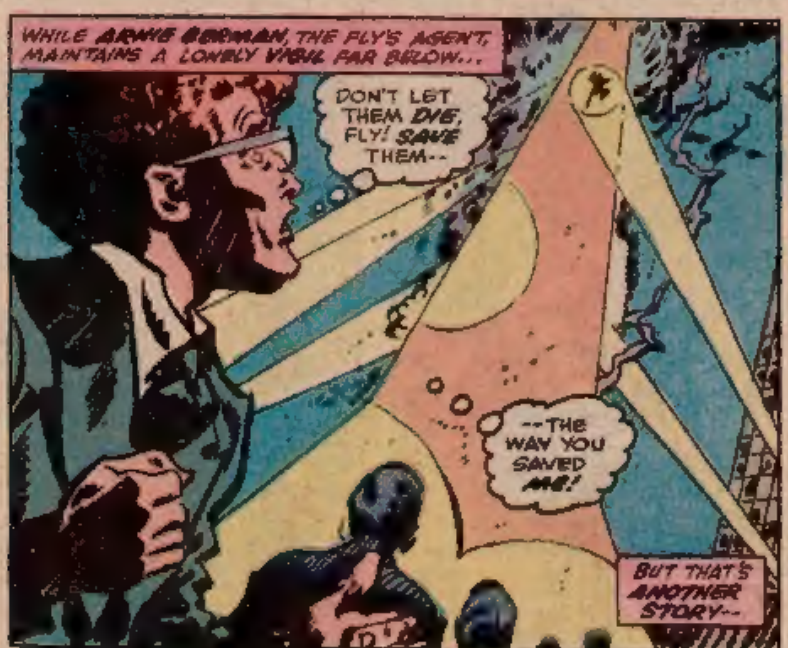

SUCTION CUPS?
SO HE CAN ADHERE TO THE WALL-- LIKE A REAL FLY!
AND WITH THE CABLE-GUN I DESIGNED CLIPPED TO YOUR BELT...
I'M AS READY AS I'LL EVER BE, EH, TED? ALL RIGHT THEN, TEAM-- LET'S GO!
OUR EMERGENCY TEAMS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE FIRE-DOORS DROPPED BY THE MADMAN FLY! YOU'RE CLEAR TO THE TWENTIETH FLOOR! AFTER THAT...
I'M ON MY OWN! THANKS, INSPECTOR--
--AND WISH ME LUCK!
I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE CLUTCHING AT STRAWS! WE DON'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT YOU CAN SAVE THOSE CHILDREN!
YOU'RE JUST KILLING YOURSELF! BUT ALL THE SAME... GOOD LUCK TO YOU, M'SIEU FLY!
FAR ABOVE HIM, THE NIGHT SKY BURNS... BEYOND ALL HUMAN CONTROL!

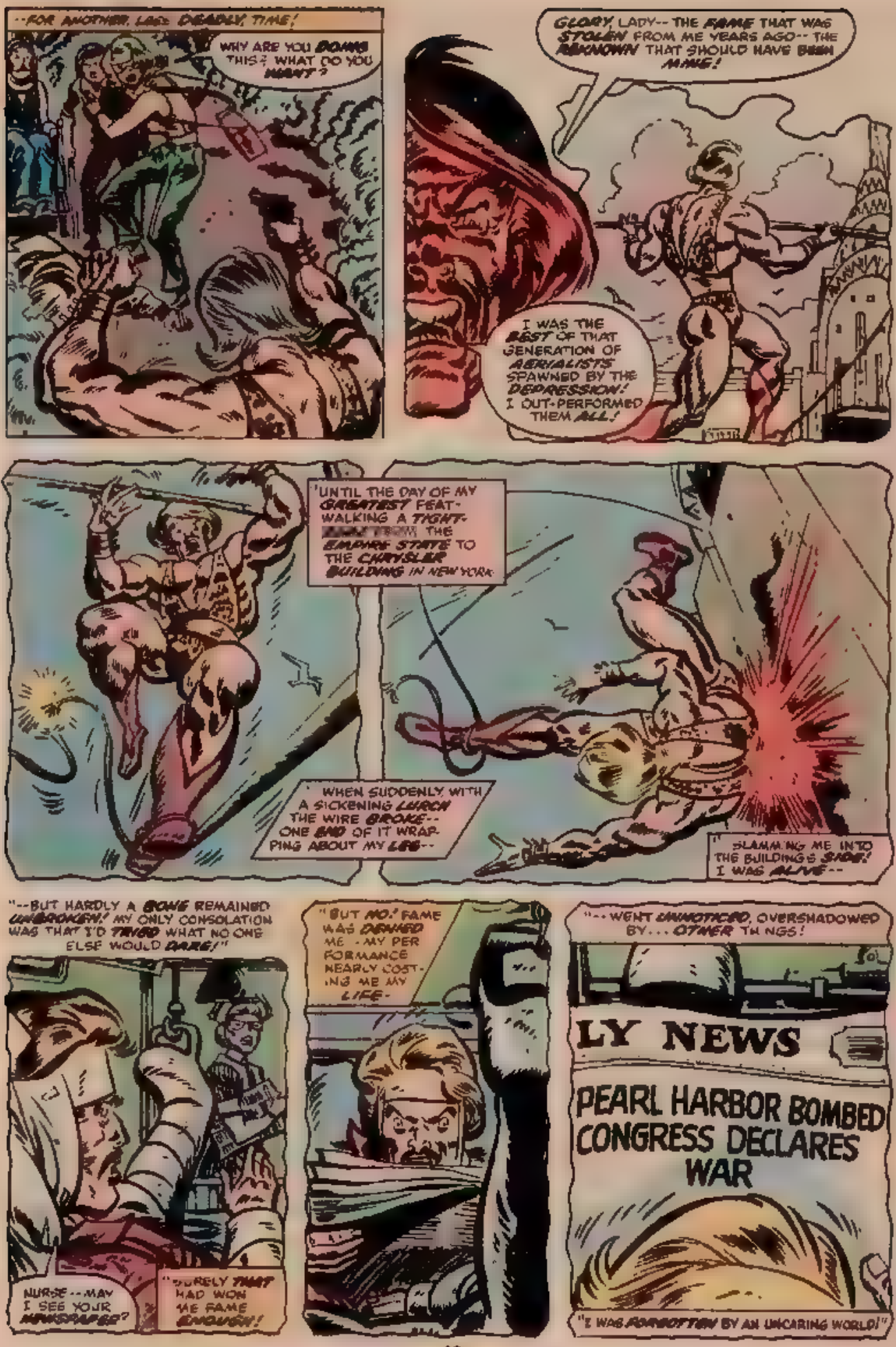
IN LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES, A SMALL HUMAN SPECK--BLOCKED FROM WITHIN--EMERGES FROM A WINDOW--
--AND SLOWLY, PAINSTAKINGLY...SUCTION CUPS ADHERING TO SMOOTH, STONE WALLS.

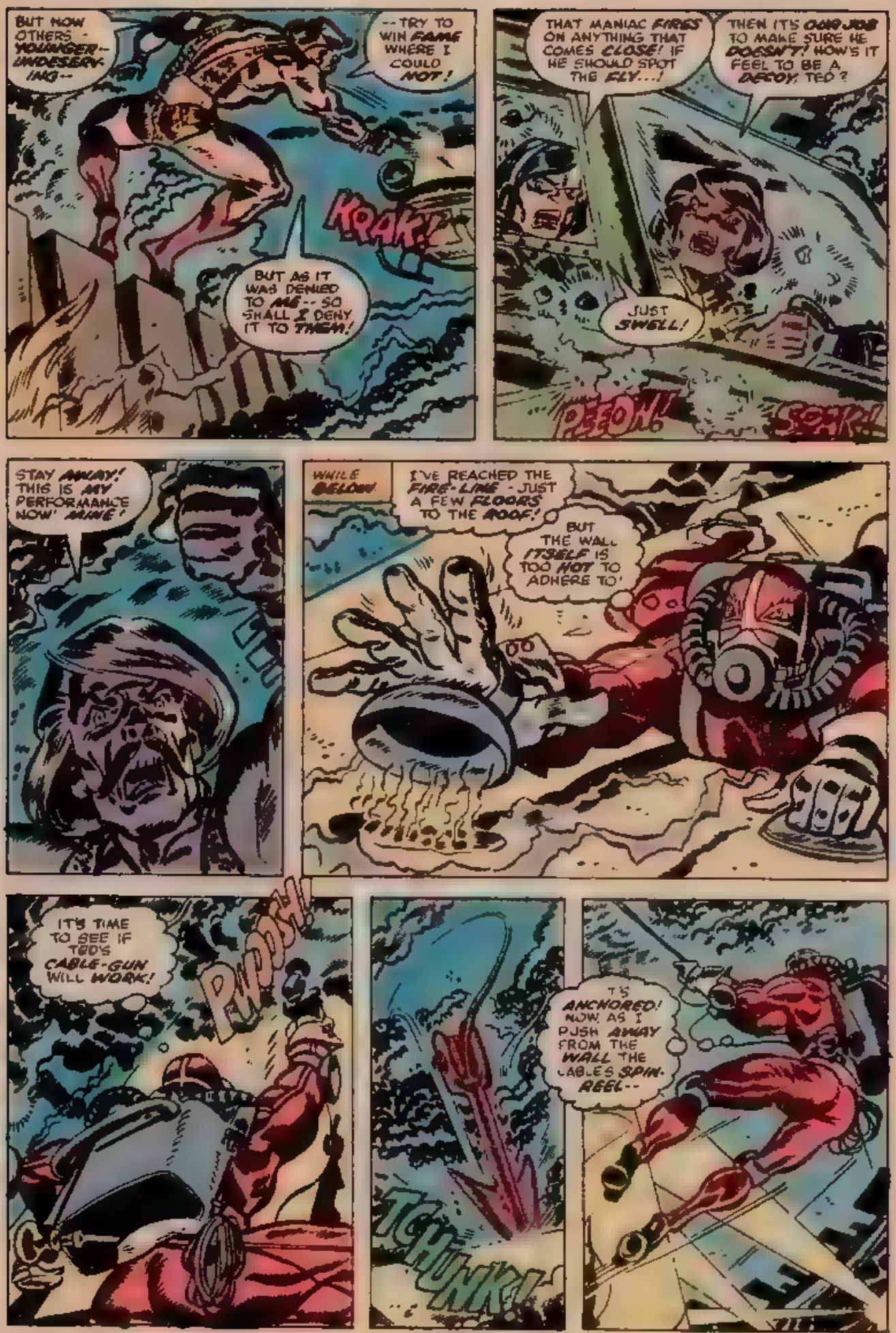

--THE HUMAN FLY BEGINS HIS CLIMB!
EVEN HERE, LESS THAN HALFWAY UP WITH THE WIND AT MY BACK--I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL THE HEAT!
HOW BAD IS IT UP WHERE THE KIDS ARE?


AND, IN A CONTROL-CHOPPER LENT THE FLY'S CREW BY THE AUTHORITIES...
HE'S REACHED THE HALFWAY-POINT!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP HIM! NOTHING--
--EXCEPT MAYBE... PRAY!

FOR A MOMENT, THE FLY STOPS--NODS AS IF HE HEARS AND UNDERSTANDS--
--AND THEN THE CLIMB RESUMES!


WHILE ARNIE BERMAN, THE FLY'S AGENT, MAINTAINS A LONELY VIGIL FAR BELOW...
DON'T LET THEM DIE, FLY! SAVE THEM--
--THE WAY YOU SAVED ME!
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY--


--FOR ANOTHER, LAST, DEADLY TIME!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GLORY LADY-- THE FAME THAT WAS STOLEN FROM ME YEARS AGO-- THE RENOWN THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINE!
I WAS THE BEST OF THAT GENERATION OF AERIALISTS SPAWNED BY THE DEPRESSION! I OUT-PERFORMED THEM ALL!
'UNTIL THE DAY OF MY GREATEST FEAT- WALKING A TIGHT-WIRE FROM THE EMPIRE STATE TO THE CHRYSLER BUILDING IN NEW YORK
' WHEN SUDDENLY WITH A SICKENING LURCH THE WIRE BROKE-- ONE END OF IT WRAPPING ABOUT MY LEG--
' SLAMMING ME INTO THE BUILDING'S SIDE! I WAS ALIVE--
"--BUT HARDLY A BONE REMAINED UNBROKEN! MY ONLY CONSOLATION WAS THAT I'D TRIED WHAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD DARE!"
NURSE--MAY I SEE YOUR NEWSPAPER?
"SURELY THAT HAD WON ME FAME ENOUGH!
"BUT NO! FAME WAS DENIED ME - MY PERFORMANCE NEARLY COSTING ME MY LIFE-
"--WENT UNNOTICED, OVERSHADOWED BY... OTHER THINGS!
LY NEWS
PEARL HARBOR BOMBED CONGRESS DECLARES WAR
"I WAS FORGOTTEN BY AN UNCARING WORLD!"


BUT NOW OTHERS - YOUNGER -- UNDESERVING --
-- TRY TO WIN FAME WHERE I COULD NOT!
KRAK!
BUT AS IT WAS DENIED TO ME -- SO SHALL I DENY IT TO THEM!
THAT MANIAC FIRES ON ANYTHING THAT COMES CLOSE! IF HE SHOULD SPOT THE FLY...!
THEN IT'S OUR JOB TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T! HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE A DECOY, TED?
JUST SWELL!
PSEON!
SOAK!
STAY AWAY! THIS IS MY PERFORMANCE NOW! MINE!
WHILE BELOW
I'VE REACHED THE FIRE-LINE - JUST A FEW FLOORS TO THE ROOF!
BUT THE WALL ITSELF IS TOO HOT TO ADHERE TO!
IT'S TIME TO SEE IF TED'S CABLE-GUN WILL WORK!
PUSH!
ICHUNK!
IT'S ANCHORED! NOW, AS I PUSH AWAY FROM THE WALL THE CABLES SPIN-REEL--

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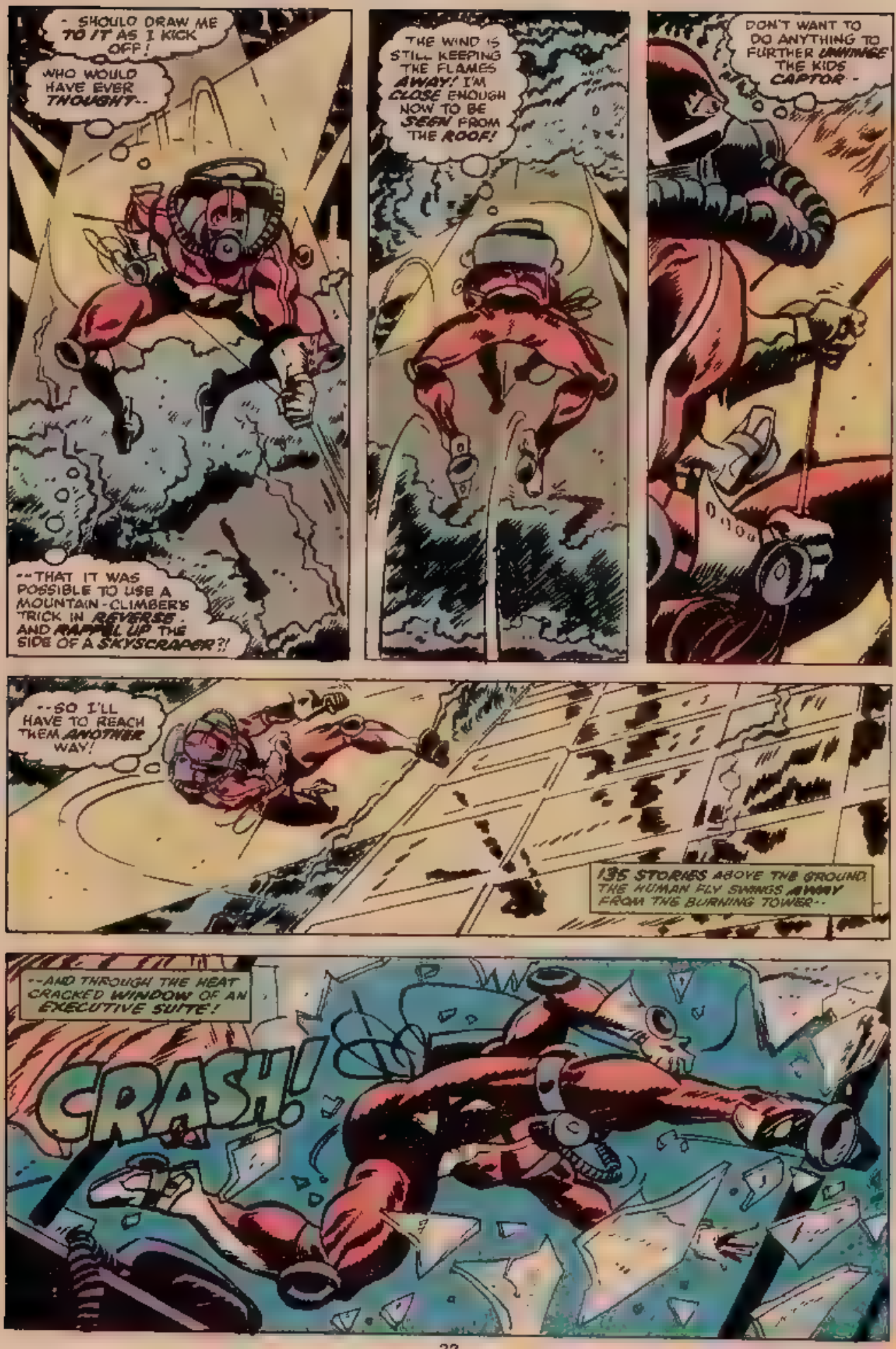
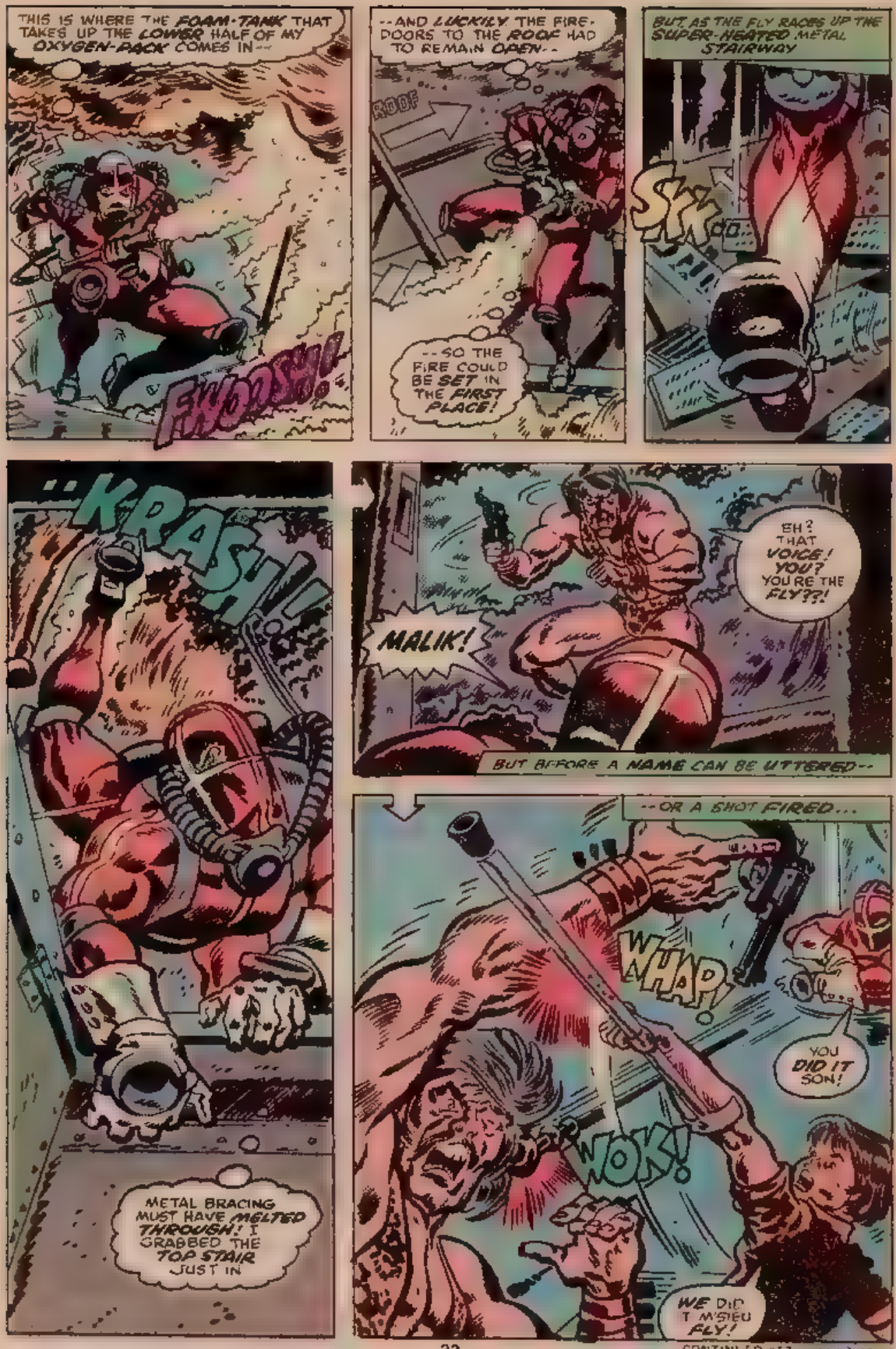

- SHOULD DRAW ME TO IT AS I KICK OFF!
WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT--
--THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO USE A MOUNTAIN-CLIMBER'S TRICK IN REVERSE - AND RAPPEL UP THE SIDE OF A SKYSCRAPER?!
THE WIND IS STILL KEEPING THE FLAMES AWAY! I'M CLOSE ENOUGH NOW TO BE SEEN FROM THE ROOF!
DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO FURTHER UNHINGE THE KIDS CAPTOR -
--SO I'LL HAVE TO REACH THEM ANOTHER WAY!
135 STORIES ABOVE THE GROUND THE HUMAN FLY SWINGS AWAY FROM THE BURNING TOWER--
--AND THROUGH THE HEAT CRACKED WINDOW OF AN EXECUTIVE SUITE!
CRASH!


THIS IS WHERE THE FOAM-TANK THAT TAKES UP THE LOWER HALF OF MY OXYGEN-PACK COMES IN--
FWOOSH!
--AND LUCKILY THE FIRE-DOORS TO THE ROOF HAD TO REMAIN OPEN--
ROOF
--SO THE FIRE COULD BE SET IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BUT AS THE FLY RACES UP THE SUPER-HEATED METAL STAIRWAY
SKK...
KRASH!
METAL BRACING MUST HAVE MELTED THROUGH! I GRABBED THE TOP STAIR JUST IN
MALIK!
EH? THAT VOICE! YOU? YOU'RE THE FLY??!
BUT BEFORE A NAME CAN BE UTTERED--
--OR A SHOT FIRED...
WHAP!
YOU DID IT SON!
WOK!
WE DID T MISTEU FLY!

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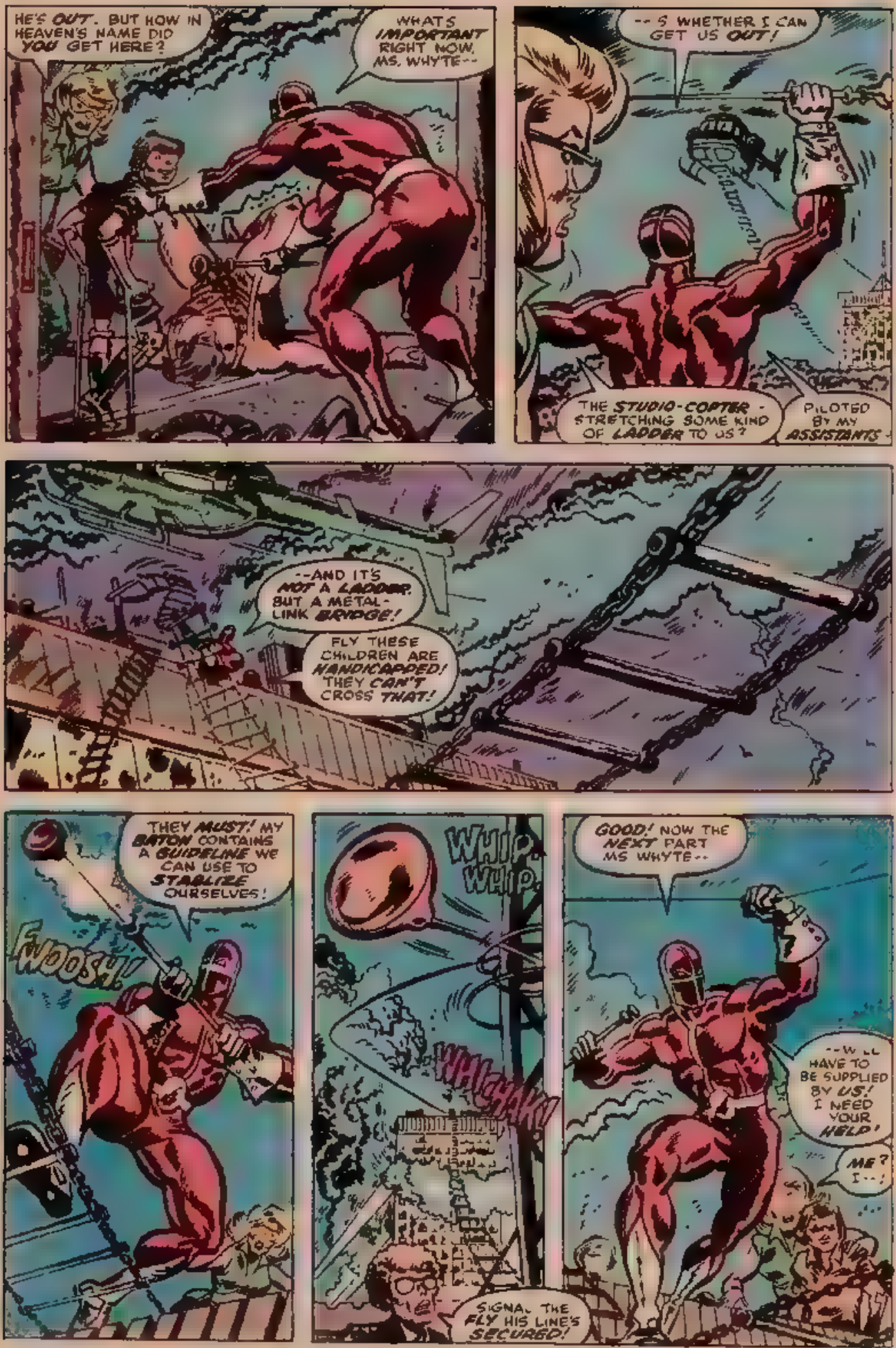
HE'S OUT. BUT HOW IN HEAVEN'S NAME DID YOU GET HERE?
WHAT'S IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW, MS. WHYTE--
--S WHETHER I CAN GET US OUT!
THE STUDIO-COPTER - STRETCHING SOME KIND OF LADDER TO US?
PILOTED BY MY ASSISTANTS -
--AND IT'S NOT A LADDER, BUT A METAL-LINK BRIDGE!
FLY THESE CHILDREN ARE HANDICAPPED! THEY CAN'T CROSS THAT!
THEY MUST! MY BATON CONTAINS A GUIDELINE WE CAN USE TO STABILIZE OURSELVES!
WOOSH!
WHIP. WHIP.
WHIPPAK!
SIGNAL THE FLY HIS LINE'S SECURED!
GOOD! NOW THE NEXT PART MS WHYTE--
--WILL HAVE TO BE SUPPLIED BY US! I NEED YOUR HELP!
ME? I--!

--SUPPORT MY YOUNG FRIEND HERE ACROSS THE BRIDGE!
DON'T BE SCARED, MS. WHYTE! IF THE FLY SAYS SO... WE CAN MAKE IT!
I--I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL THAT'S TRUE, TOMMY!

NOW, YOUNG LADY--
--I HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN AN UNCONSCIOUS CAMERAMAN... AND YOU!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, M'SIEU FLY-- I CAN WAIT FOR THE SECOND TRIP!

THE FLY HAS FELT THE WIND SHIFTING-- HE KNOWS THERE MAY NOT BE TIME FOR A RETURN TRIP! HE STANDS TORN, UNDECIDED, WHEN...

A MOMENT'S HESITATION AND THEN THE HUMAN FLY NODS HIS APPROVAL!

AND TWO MEN BEGIN TO WALK AWAY FROM A FIERY DEATH!

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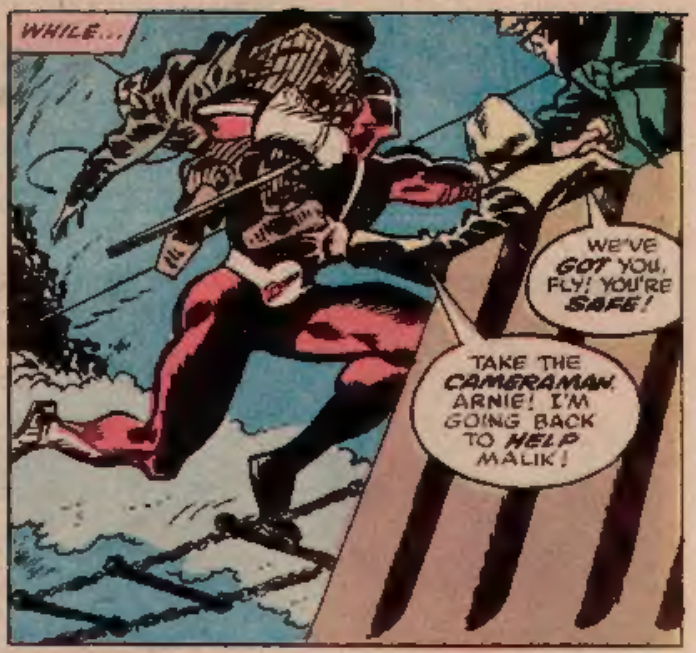
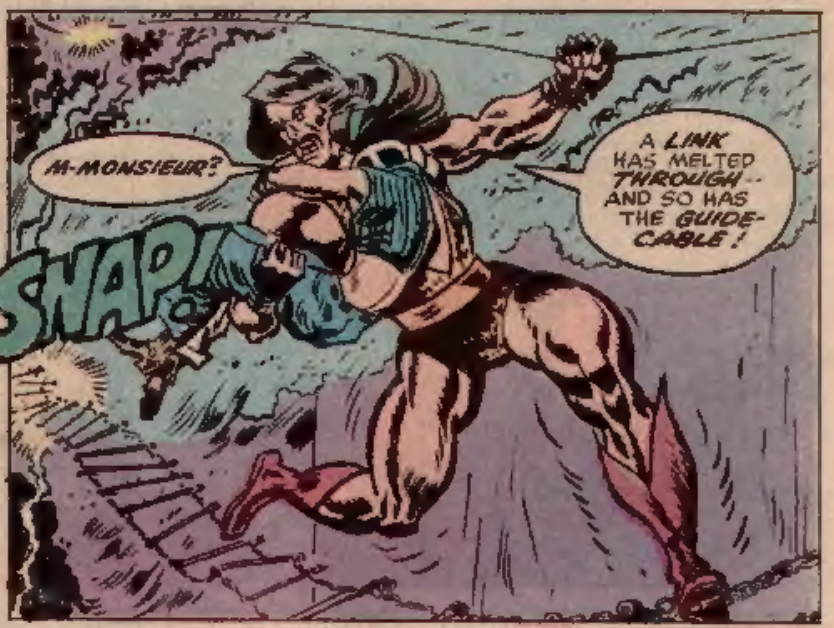
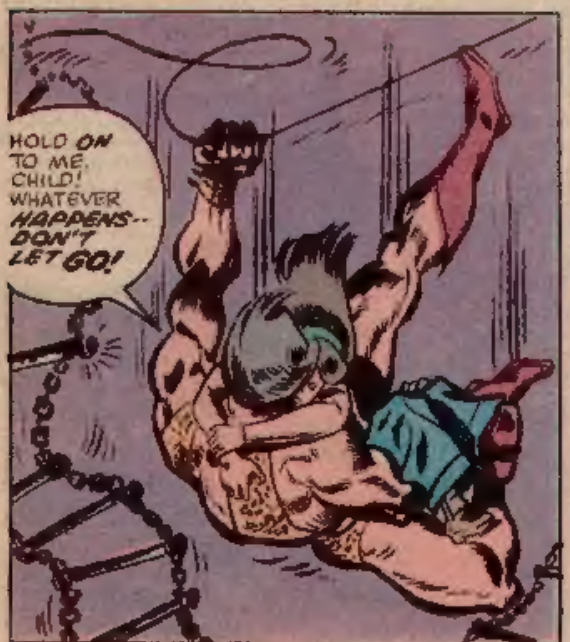
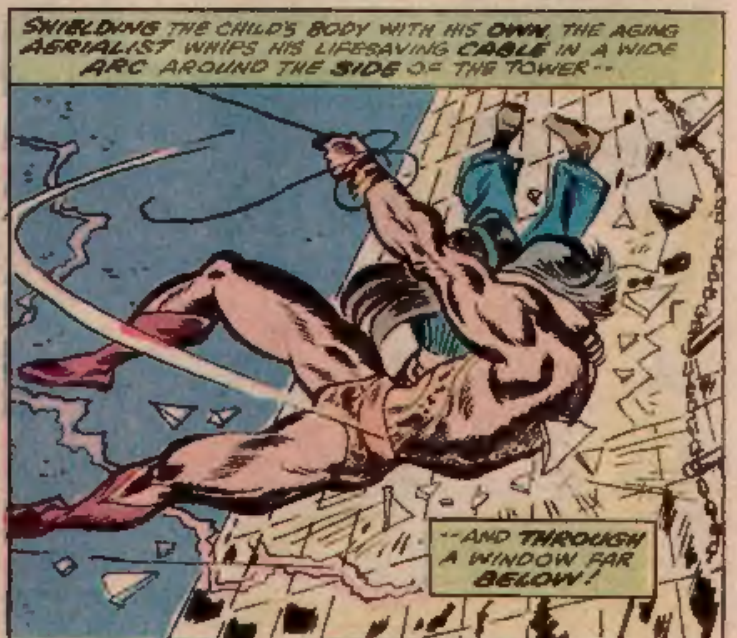
I KNEW A YOUNG MAN FRESH OUT OF A HOSPITAL WHO ASKED ME TO TEACH HIM ALL I KNEW ABOUT THE HIGHWIRE! I DID... AND HE WAS THE BEST!
YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF HIM NOW, M'SIEU!
WHY... YES -- MAYBE, AFTER ALL-- I AM.

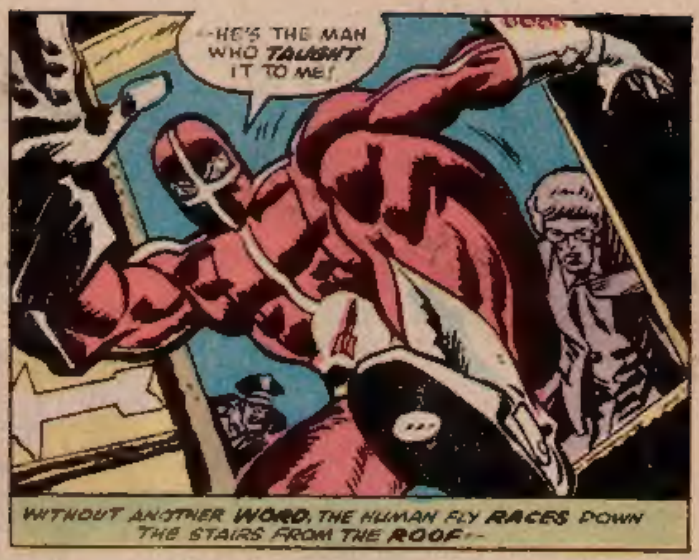

WHILE...
WE'VE GOT YOU, FLY! YOU'RE SAFE!
TAKE THE CAMERAMAN, ARNIE! I'M GOING BACK TO HELP MALIK!

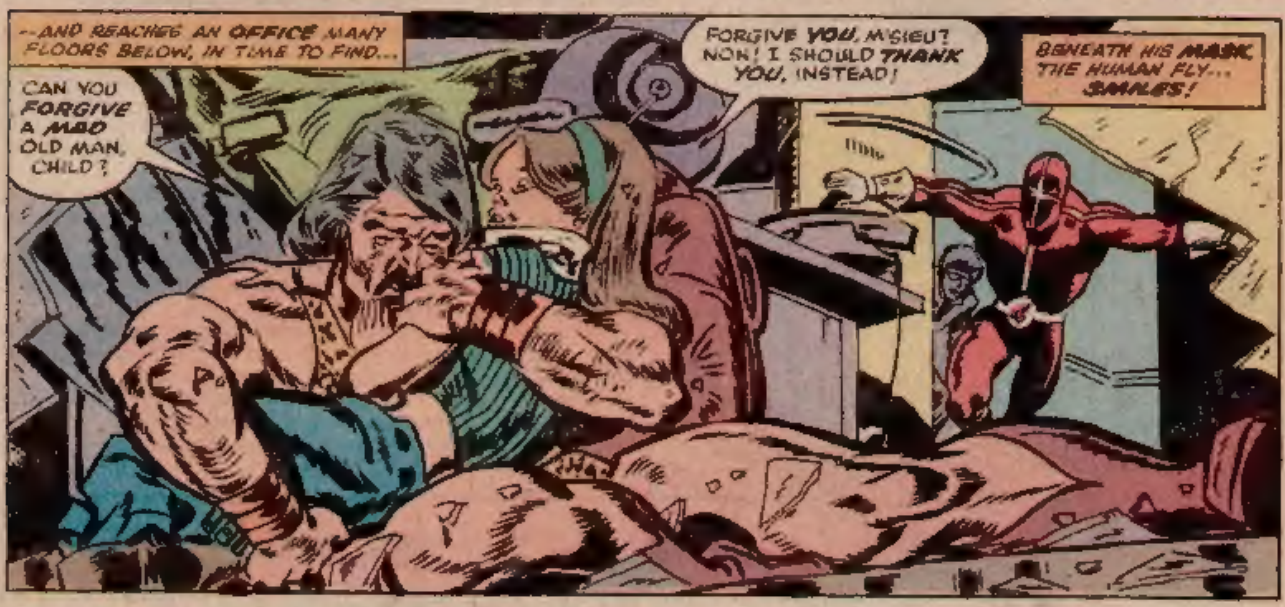
BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...
FSSSSS-SNAP!


M-MONSIEUR?
A LINK HAS MELTED THROUGH -- AND SO HAS THE GUIDE-CABLE!


HOLD ON TO ME, CHILD! WHATEVER HAPPENS -- DON'T LET GO!


SHIELDING THE CHILD'S BODY WITH HIS OWN, THE AGING AERIALIST WHIPS HIS LIFESAVING CABLE IN A WIDE ARC AROUND THE SIDE OF THE TOWER --
--AND THROUGH A WINDOW FAR BELOW!




--AND REACHES AN OFFICE MANY FLOORS BELOW, IN TIME TO FIND...
CAN YOU FORGIVE A MAD OLD MAN, CHILD?
FORGIVE YOU, MONSIEU? NON! I SHOULD THANK YOU, INSTEAD!
BENEATH HIS MASK, THE HUMAN FLY... SMILES!

LATER...
MALIK...?
I WAS WRONG, FLY... AND I'LL GO TO PRISON FOR IT... PROBABLY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
BUT MAYBE I MADE UP A LITTLE... WITH YOU AND THE GIRL!

YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME! GO ON, SON-- DO WHAT THIS OLD MAN NEVER COULD! GIVE PEOPLE SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR!
GIVE 'EM HOPE... IT'S WORTH MORE THAN GLORY!

NEXT ISSUE: FEAR IN FUNLAND!

FLY PAPERS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Archie,

I've just read the first three issues of THE HUMAN FLY and I really enjoyed them! After I read HUMAN FLY #1, I noticed the part about "The Wildest Super-Hero Ever—Because He's Real!" If he *is* real, I sure would like to meet him.

I've heard that you're not going to change the Fly into a crime-fighter, and I like that—because he's going to make the big times just the way he is!

Tony Hertel
781 Madison
Denver, CO 80206

We here at the Bullpen just received a letter from the Fly that we're passing along to you pilgrims out there. The letter says that, on October 7, 1977, the very real HUMAN FLY—riding a rocket-powered motorcycle—will attempt to double a world's record by rocket-leaping over 26 parked buses.

The event is scheduled to take place at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, Canada.

That's all we know as of right now, but if anything further comes along, we'll be sure to pass it on to you.

Dear Crew,

I've been a true Marvelite for years now, but I've never contributed to a letters page of any comic before. But, after reading the first three issues of THE HUMAN FLY, I've decided to break the habit of just being a member of the silent majority of Marveldom.

When I bought HUMAN FLY #1, I was sure that it was going to be just a cheap take-off on a fellow insect, SPIDER-MAN. I don't have to tell you how wrong I was. THE HUMAN FLY is the most life-like super-hero that I've come across in all my years of being a Marvel follower. The story of his origin was well-planned, as it explained the motives behind his actions. The artwork, especially the covers, has been exceptionally well done.

All praise and no criticism makes a letters page dull. In HUMAN FLY #3, our hero used his steel-mesh cape to save himself from hurtling down into the canyons below. Please tell me, why did the Fly leave his cape on the cliffs? Steel-mesh capes don't come a dime-a-dozen! Don't try and weasel your way out of this by saying that the cape was torn beyond repair. Only a slight rip was visible in it.

Secondly, why in the world would kidnappers drug a polio victim who obviously was incapable of running away? In addition, she couldn't call for help, since only the high-FLYing birds would have heard her. No excuse, huh? I won't beg, but I'll accept a cherished no-prize if you throw one my way. This mag won't be a FLY by-night deal!

Eric Hochberg
1446 East 29 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11210

We're pondering how best to send you *half* a no-prize, Eric. We couldn't wriggle out of your second point, but numero uno is easily explained. The Fly was hanging between life and death. He had a choice; figure out how to save his cape, or how to save himself. Besides, as we've stated at least once each issue, the Fly and his crew work for expenses. David Dreir, the "richest man in the state", could certainly spring for a new steel-mesh cape—a small price, it seems, for the safe return of his daughter in HUMAN FLY #4.

Dear Marvel,

Congratulations on the HUMAN FLY—the wildest mag ever about the wildest HERO ever! I'm exploding with questions. There really *is* a HUMAN FLY, and he *does* do stunt shows to raise money for cripples! But, was he *really* in a car accident as described in your story in and your letters pages? If you know this for sure, where do you get your information? If it's widely publicized, then wouldn't the doctors who healed him know who he is? (I don't imagine there are metal-reinforced bone cases everyday!)

Also, does the Fly limit himself to stunt shows, or does he stop an occasional bank robbery? In other words, just how much is the real Human Fly like your comic book character? Why does the Fly have a rocket-insignia on his belt, instead of a Fly-design?

Well, thanks for listening.

Michael White
PO BOX #93
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

We'll *try* to answer your questions, Mike—but some we just can't, cause only the Fly himself knows the answers. First, yes, the Fly was in a car accident, and the incident shown in our books was a recreation of that. Our sources: The Fly! You tend to believe a guy who's doing as much good—without remuneration—as he is. As for the docs who put him back together, plus some—the Fly tells us he swore them to secrecy. As far as we know, he hasn't yet stopped a bank robbery or involved himself in any way in criminal investigation—but, then, he's *not* a comic book hero. We take certain license with our monthly adventures, building on the *concept* of the entity known as the HUMAN FLY, as opposed to documenting his every-day appearances. The newspapers and TV do that—our job is not to report, but to get the Fly's message across in as entertaining a manner as possible. As for the belt-design, well, we *asked* the Fly about that one—but he was in the process of climbing this blazing skyscraper, y'see, and. . .

Dear Marvel,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. . . .The HUMAN FLY #3 was *terrific!* I can tell you right here and now that the Human Fly is no dud and, boy-oh-boy, this is not the *only* letter you folks are going to get from me on the Fly!

Stan Harris
Las Cruces
NM

The more the merrier, Stan. Keep 'em FLYin'!

Dear Marvel,

Today is July 15, 1977. It is 9:05 AM and, as I write this letter, I sit watching TV. The name of the show is "To Tell the Truth" and the first group of men to come out all have masks on and claim to be your new comic book hero, THE HUMAN FLY!

I must admit that, until seeing him on TV, I was a bit skeptical about his existence. I apologize for not believing you right off, and only now can I say that, once again, I am a True Believer!

Since THE HUMAN FLY #1 so authentically reproduced the Fly's origin, I had no trouble picking him out as contestant #2. Please print this letter to prevent further skeptics, and to enlighten all of Marveldom that there really *is* a HUMAN FLY!

Jeff Goodman
7602 21st Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11214

Hey Stan,

If Marvel EVER had a hit on its hands, it's THE HUMAN FLY! Congratulations!

The art, writing and adaptations are just fantastic. Keep up the good work.

Steve O'Brien
Air Personality, WABC radio
1330 Ave of the Americas, NYC, NY 10019

We will, and thank *you*, Steve, for getting us all through those loooong New York nights with your show on WABC-Radio!

Peace, effendi!